

HOUSE RESOLUTION 167

By Clem

A RESOLUTION to expel Representative Chris Newton pursuant to Article II, Section 12 of the Constitution of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 12 of the Constitution of Tennessee provides:

"Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a member, but not a second time for the same offence; and shall have all other powers necessary for a branch of the Legislature of a free State."; and

WHEREAS, it appears to the Tennessee House of Representatives that Representative Chris Newton should be expelled from the House of Representatives for committing disorderly behavior, as well as, unethical, immoral and/or illegal acts more specifically described in the following allegations:

1. Sometime between July 1, 2004, and May 20, 2005, Representative Chris Newton did knowingly conspire and agree to commit extortion, as that term is explained in Title 18 U.S.C., Section 1951(b)(2), by obtaining property from another with his consent under color of official right;

2. Sometime between July 1, 2004, and May 20, 2005, Representative Chris Newton did knowingly conspire and agree to commit bribery, as that term is explained in Title 18 U.S.C., Section 666, by profiting financially by demanding and accepting money in reward and exchange for Chris Newton's support in advancing House Bill 37;

3. It was part of the conspiracy that Chris Newton would obtain several thousand dollars in bribes. Chris Newton accepted this undetermined amount of money in return for influencing legislation;

4. Specifically, on or about September 15, 2004, Chris Newton did accept \$750 from Charles Love in return for agreeing to sponsor legislation what would later be known as House Bill 37;

5. On or about September 17, 2004, Chris Newton accepted another \$750 from Charles Love in return for carrying legislation that would later be known as House Bill 37;

6. On or about October 13, 2004, Chris Newton accepted another \$1,000 in cash from Charles Love in return for carrying legislation that would later be known as House Bill 37;

7. None of the above payments were deposited in Representative Chris Newton's campaign accounts or were reported on his campaign disclosure statements; and

8. On January 13, 2005, Representative Chris Newton filed said legislation which became known as House Bill 37; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that pursuant to Article II, Section 12 of the Constitution of Tennessee, the House of Representatives, with great sorrow, hereby expels Representative Chris Newton from the Tennessee House of Representatives.